

Like in previous years, this year also the Minimum qualifying yield has been raised from 46 kgs. to 48 kgs. per hectare (for Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan) to prevent any leakage of opium. For Uttar Pradesh, the Minimum Qualifying Yield has been fixed at 40 kgs. as that State is in a different agro-climatic area and has a traditionally lower yield.

To provide for the shortfall in area and the number of cultivators delicensed every year, the experiment of inducing new cultivators or increasing the size of individual cultivator's area was tried in the previous years but the same had by and large failed. While the productivity fell with the increase in the area, the induction of fresh cultivators every year introduced a hiccup in the policy which encouraged corruption and leakage of opium into illicit channel. No long term relationship or trust could be built in such a state and new set of people were being introduced to opium trade habits every year. The Govt. has, therefore, decided to retain, as far as may be, the previous year's cultivators provided they were not involved in any manner under the N.D.P.S. Act, 1985 and the Rules made thereunder, as laid down specifically under Clause 3 of the current year's Policy. Almost 75% of the cultivators licensed this year had fulfilled the prescribed Minimum qualifying yield of 48 Kgs. or 40 kgs., as the case may be, in the previous year of cultivation. Out of a total of about 75,000 cultivators licensed this year, the concession in terms of yield has been extended to about 19,000 and not 70,000 cultivators as reported in the Newspapers. The said concession is subject to the proviso that the concerned cultivators shall be permanently delicensed if they fail to tender the prescribed Minimum Qualifying Yield in the year 1996-97. There is no evidence that such cultivators had diverted their products to drug trade. Opium poppy being a delicate crop susceptible to damage, delicensing of a large number of cultivators every year, who fail to reach the prescribed Minimum Qualifying Yield, is quite common. Relief in terms of yield was being granted to such cultivators in the past also.

The said concession was extended in view of the pressing need of the Government to have a continuity in the system and license a certain minimum number of cultivators to produce the targetted quantity of opium. It is in the long term interest of the country and directed to prevent the prevalent drug abuse.

The presumption that the entire opium produce on about 29,760 hectares this year would be diverted into illicit channels notwithstanding the strong enforcement machinery of the Department, is completely baseless besides being irrational. Similarly, to calculate the likely produce and leakage of opium into illicit channels and quantify its price in the black market is a hypothetical exercise which does not merit serious consideration.

[Translation]

### Development of Textile Industry

**4376. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan in regard to allocation of more funds and providing more facilities for the promotion and development of handloom, powerloom, readymade garments and woollen garments industries in the State as well as to resolve the problems being faced by these industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) to (c). Union Govt. have not received any proposal from the Govt. of Rajasthan in regard to allocation of more funds and providing more facilities for the promotion and development of powerloom, readymade garments, woollen garments industries in the State as well as to resolve the problems being faced by these industries.

As regards 'handloom', no such proposal with regard to allocation of more funds has been received from State Govt. of Rajasthan for providing more facilities for promotion and development of handloom. However, funds to the tune of Rs. 5.84 lakhs under the Scheme of setting up of Enforcement Machinery and Rs. 12.67 lakhs under the scheme of MDA to States have been released during the current financial year 1996-97 (as on 3.12.96) to Govt. of Rajasthan. Releases made during last three years to the State Government of Rajasthan under various on-going Handloom Development Schemes are indicated below :

(Value Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No	Scheme	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
<b>Plan Scheme</b>				
1	Publicity and Exhibition		2.25	-
2	Margin Money for Dist. Weavers		50	-
3	Workshed cum Housing Scheme	40.16	6.00	7.40
4	PPS/IHVDS	12.25	34.57	336.94
5	HDC/ODU	-	3.04	7.73
6	Health Package Scheme	20.00	-	25.50
7	Thrift Fund Scheme	1.65	1.00	1.00
8	Setting up of Enf. Machinery	5.00	7.51	2.67
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>79.06</b>	<b>54.87</b>	<b>381.24</b>
<b>Non-Plan Scheme</b>				
1.	MDA for states	130.11	68.59	33.07
2.	Janta Cloth Scheme	291.39	123.05	113.03
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>421.50</b>	<b>191.64</b>	<b>146.10</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>500.56</b>	<b>246.51</b>	<b>527.34</b>

A proposal was also received from Govt. of Rajasthan for setting up of Re-search and Development Centre at Jaipur for testing of textile printed with azo dyes. In this connection it may be mentioned that testing facilities are being provided at Jaipur under the programme of expansion/upgradation of laboratory network in the country at easy reach to the textile industry.

### Tax Rates

4377 SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Tariff Rates to be at Global Level by 2003' Chidambaram published in 'Economic Times' dated November 25, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the rate of taxation in the country is much higher than that in the other countries of the world;

(c) if not, the facts in this regard and the estimated average rate of taxation in India and other countries of the world separately;

(d) whether the Government have fixed the year 2003 as time limit for bringing the said Rate of Taxation at Global level;

(e) if so, whether the high taxation rate would continue affecting the foreign trade in the country; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is generally that India's average import tariff is higher than that in many other countries including some developing countries.

(d) to (f). No precise terminal year has been fixed. However, it is the policy of the Government to gradually bring down the import tariffs. In doing so, Government will take into account all relevant factors, including the desired level of protection to domestic industry, competitiveness of India's export products which use imported raw materials and components, and tariff bindings agreed to.

[Translation]

### Latest Technique in SSI

4378 SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether small scale industries are facing

difficulties due to lack of provision of latest techniques in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing latest technique to SSI in time?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Small Scale Sector is experiencing some difficulties in sourcing latest technology. To facilitate this Government is providing technology information and extension services to the small scale units through a network of various institutions at different places in the country. Under the Department of SSI and ARI, Small Industries Development Organisation and National Small Industries Corporation are rendering services to the SSI units through their field offices. Tool Rooms at Ludhiana, Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Aurangabad, Jamshedpur and Hand Tool Institutions at Jullandhar and Nagaur and providing technical support services to the SSI units. Specialised institutions namely Process-cum-Product Development Centre (PPDC) Meerut for sports goods and PPDC, Agra for foundry, CDGI for glass industry at Ferozabad, FFDC for essential oils at Kannauj, IDEMI for instrumentation at Bombay and ESTC for electronics at Ramnagar, CFTIs for leather and footwear at Madras and Agra are providing specific technical services to the SSI units. 5 Prototype Development and Training Centres by NSIC located at Delhi, Calcutta, Rajkot, Madras and Hyderabad are providing technical training, common facilities, laboratory testing facilities and development of proper technologies to the SSI units.

In addition to above, the Department of SSI and ARI operates a scheme of International Cooperation Programme wherein small enterprises are taken to different countries to acquaint them with latest technique available in their field of production. Also NSIC organises industrial exhibitions every year wherein the SSI units get an opportunity to meet the foreign companies and interact with them for the latest technologies/techniques.

[English]

### Function of Export Inspection Council of India

4379. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the main functions of the Export Inspection Council of India;

(b) whether Export (Quality Control of Inspection) Act, 1963 prescribed any duration for holding the meeting of the members of Export Inspection council of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;